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RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 3161

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHENGDU 000231

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STATE FOR EAP/CM, DRL AND G/STC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/7/2032

TAGS: PGOV PHUM ECON SOCI SCUL CH

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONTROL INCREASING IN SICHUAN'S GANZI PREFECTURE

REF: CHENGDU 220 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY: James Boughner, Consul General, Chengdu,
Department of State.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Local sources indicate that officials in Sichuan's Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture are implementing new measures directed at affirming the loyalty of government and religious figures in the prefecture following the "August 1 Litang Incident" (reftel). End summary.

¶2. (C) Local sources have informed us that officials in Sichuan's Ganzi Prefecture have been told that the prefecture will soon require party cadres and "important social and religious figures" to make public statements of their political thinking, and to vow to defend China's Communist leadership and fight separatism. One source claimed that religious figures may be required to publicly read a letter denouncing separatism, which letter must include an explicit reference to the Dalai Lama. Another source described this as the implementation of the "TAR Model."

¶3. (C) Those same sources said that Litang County, situated in Ganzi Prefecture, has allegedly been selected in recent weeks as an "experimental site" for a patriotic education campaign. The campaign is said to be directed at affirming the loyalty of religious and government figures in the area to China's central government, and will eventually be expanded to all of Ganzi Prefecture. Likewise, private schools (especially those run by religious institutions such as monasteries) may be required to "merge" with government schools, and religious figures may be required to distance themselves from educational institutions.

¶4. (C) These measures follow on the heels of the "Litang August 1 Incident" described reftel, and are taken in response to heightened security concerns arising from the incident.

BOUGHNER